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Subject: Salients for your review - Wk 1/26/21
Attachments: Salients 01-26-21.docx

Please review the file and forward appropriate issues for this week Administrators Report.

File located on the <L:\Share\Salients\Salients FY2021\Salients 01-26-21.docx>

Region 3 Salients for 01/26/2021
Salient Issues
for Regional Administrator and Deputy Regional Administrator

Land, Chemicals, and Redevelopment Division

Historic Hershey Building Cleared of PCBs and Opened for use as a Mass COVID 19 Vaccination Site - After three years of polychlorinated biphenyl (PCB) remediation activity, LCRD's RCRA Corrective Action Branch 1 is approving public access and use of the Hershey Company's Office Building located in Hershey, PA. This approval comes just in time to allow the Building to be used as a site for administering the COVID 19 vaccine to the community. The PCB remediation included the removal of PCB-containing exterior caulk, removal of PCB-containing dust in the interior of the Building, removal and disposal of contaminated air handling filters, and the encapsulation of PCB-contaminated limestone surfaces around the exterior of windows. PCBs are both a persistent organic pollutant (POP) and a persistent, bio-accumulative and toxic (PBT). Once in the environment, PCBs can cycle between air, water and soils. PCBs are a probable carcinogen as well as causing adverse health effects on the immune, reproductive, nervous and endocrine systems. **(Kelly Bunker, 4-2177)**

Upcoming Events: N/A

Office of Public Affairs

Delaware

Carper to Lead Senate Environment Committee - As the Senate changes rules and parties, Senior Senator Tom Carper, currently the ranking member, is being tapped for Chairman of the Environment and Public Works Committee. The committee is responsible for issues related to environmental policy and water resources as well as fisheries and wildlife. This is also the committee responsible for overseeing the nomination hearing of President Biden's nominee for EPA Administrator, Michael Regan. (Kyle Zieba, 4-5420)

Maryland

Maryland Speaker of the House Outlines "Black Agenda" - State House Speaker Adrienne Jones has outlined an ambitious "Black Agenda" and racial equity plan aimed at closing the race gap in areas such as homeownership, health and wealth. As Maryland's first Black person and the first woman of any race to lead the Maryland House of Delegates, Speaker Jones is seeking to use her powerful position to address the institutional racism that has existed since the end of slavery and kept African Americans steps behind white citizens in most areas of life by creating an unceasing cycle of poverty. Developed with input from more than

three dozen thought leaders, Speaker Jones' plan includes 30 policy recommendations along with nine pieces of legislation to help African Americans build wealth, better compete for state contracts and buy homes by erasing unfair credit criteria and down payment barriers, and address environmental justice issues. (Kyle Zieba, 4-5420)

Pennsylvania

The Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (PADEP) is failing to protect streams and property from subsidence from underground "longwall" mining, according to a report released by the Citizen's Coal Council. The state is allowing dozens of miles of streams in Western Pennsylvania to suffer the loss of flow or have their streambeds disrupted from mine subsidence, because the mines are causing land above them to sink, in spite of state laws designed to protect streams, the report states. The state's "failure to protect" the streams above the mines "erodes the public's trust" in the PADEP, according to the report, written by the Citizens Coal Council. The report is based on the PADEP's own study of mine subsidence, which the state is mandated to produce every five years. (Mark Ferrell, 304/542-0231)

Virginia

President Biden has Selected Jewel Bronaugh, the Virginia State Agriculture Commissioner, as his Nominee for Deputy Agriculture Secretary, the No. 2 Post at USDA - Bronaugh was among five women who were announced on Monday for deputy secretaries of federal departments and would be the first Black deputy secretary at USDA. The deputy secretary is in charge of day-to-day operations at the USDA, one of the largest federal departments with more than 84,000 employees across the nation and a budget of \$150 billion a year. The deputy secretary often oversees the implementation of federal policies and USDA regulations. Bronaugh has been Virginia agriculture commissioner since 2018. She was state director of USDA's Farm Service Agency during the final years of the Obama administration after serving as dean of agriculture at historically black Virginia State University in Petersburg, about 20 miles south of Richmond, the state capitol. Bronaugh has a doctorate degree from Virginia Tech. The National Black Farmers Association said selection of Bronaugh was "an historic moment" for USDA. "We hope she will use her knowledge of the department to level the playing field for NBFA members as well as other minority and small-scale farmers and to end the culture of discrimination at the USDA," said NBFA president John Boyd. (Mark Ferrell, 304/542-0231)

West Virginia

West Virginia's Congressional Delegation Weighs in on Biden's Actions on Environment - "Killing the Keystone XL pipeline and rejoining the Paris Agreement will eliminate good-paying jobs," U.S. **Senator Shelley Moore Capito, R-W.Va.**, said in a statement on Biden's first day in office. "My constituents and I have not forgotten the harm brought by this approach under the Obama administration. In these next four years, it is imperative that Congress aggressively exercises oversight and pushes back on the worst impulses of Washington bureaucrats when it comes to West Virginians' way of life." **Representative Alex X. Mooney, R-W.Va.**, criticized Biden's moves to have the U.S. rejoin the Paris Agreement and revoke the Keystone XL pipeline permit, similarly arguing it would cost thousands of jobs and adversely affect energy-producing states like West Virginia. "Over the last four years, states like West Virginia have helped make America energy independent and lower greenhouse gas emissions. America should continue with these commonsense policies instead of moving back to the days when the Obama-Biden Administration was waging war on coal and natural gas," Mooney said in a statement. **Representative David B. McKinley, R-W.Va.**, who was selected to serve as ranking member of the Energy and Commerce Subcommittee on Environment and Climate Change, said in a statement Thursday the subcommittee would be "the tip of the spear in fighting the Biden Administration and Democrat Majority's extreme climate change policies" and called Biden's plan to phase fossil fuels out of America's power sector by 2035 "not feasible." Meanwhile, the U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit's strike-down of the EPA's Affordable Clean Energy rule that the Trump administration had designed to replace the Obama-era Clean Power Plan on Trump's last full day in office has opened the door for Biden to draft a less industry-friendly replacement. **Representative Carol Miller, R-W.Va.**, praised the

Trump administration's Affordable Clean Energy rule at a West Virginia Department of Environmental Protection hearing for a Longview Power application for certification under the state's implementation of the rule and a section of the Clean Air Act in October, and said Friday that the court's ruling is "disastrous to our nation's energy independence." (Mark Ferrell, 304/542-0231)

COMMUNICATIONS BRANCH

Customer Service Helpline Activity – During the past week, callers contacted the region about a variety of issues: outdoor wood boiler devices, mice and bats in an apartment building, the quality of a public water company's water, indoor air quality, gas station underground storage tank records, and the release of Freon. Business owners contacted us about the following: a septic system, wastewater treatment training classes, and the mailing of an asbestos demolition notification form to our office. (Ginny Davis, 4-2149)

I. Internal

****R3Connect rollout pending**** R3Announce updates – Region 3 Idea Box; Region 3 On the Move Newsletter; Test. Fix. Save a Life! January is National Radon Action Month; American Red Cross January Blood Drive dates; Then & Now Series; Did You Know series

II. External

Executive Events

TBD March The Intersection of Food & Local Economic Development
TBD March Delaware Estuary Program Conference

Media Relations

NSTR

OPEN

19 Jan WTAJ-TV: Radon Action Month

Press Events

NSTR

Press Releases/Advisories

NSTR

Future:

- GWU Hospital in D.C. to pay \$108,304 penalty for hazardous waste violations (OECA approved)
- EPA Awards Grants to Virginia Tech Student Team for Innovative Technology Project (draft pending)
- EPA Awards Grant to Temple Student Team for Innovative Technology Project (draft complete)
- EPA Awards Grants to Carnegie Mellon Student Team for Innovative Technology Project (draft complete)
- Early January: \$1.9M Chesapeake Appalachia LLC (CALLC) CWA settlement, 76 fracking sites in Pennsylvania (waiting for bankruptcy court action and CD to be lodged)
- U.S., Pennsylvania settle with American Zinc Recycling over alleged environmental violations at Palmerton facility (DOJ lodged CD, 19 Jan)
- EPA approves Consent Decree modification for Hampton Roads Sanitation District enforcement PR (approved; sent to OECA 16 Nov, held till CD is lodged)

- EPA settlement with Arkema, Inc., in CAA violation – completed and approved (waiting for actions against company)

Future media/press interest

- Continued interest in tri-state lawsuit against EPA re: Chesapeake Bay 2025 TMDL milestones, NY WIP and continued funding
- Continued interest in PES, Norwood, Shaffer/Arbuckle Site, Erie Coke plant clean-up, Sparrows Point, Paden City drinking water issues
- Interest in new incoming administration's picks for EPA

III. Social Media

Facebook/Twitter

January:

21-Jan-21 When in doubt, check @EPA's List N to find products that help stop the spread of #COVID19: www.epa.gov/ListNTool @CDCgov #coronavirus

Future:

26-Jan-21 #ISO a product that can kill the #coronavirus? Follow three simple steps: Step 1: Go to List N (www.epa.gov/ListNTool) Step 2: Type first two parts of the EPA registration number, Step 3: If product is on the list, @EPA expects it to kill the coronavirus SARS-CoV-2. Remember to follow usage directions! @CDCgov #covid19

TBD

- Tweetables: R3 Workforce Continuing to Fulfill EPA's Mission (amplify success stories w/additional posts, #DYK series, etc.)
- R3 Success Stories

Office of Office of Communities, Tribes and Environmental Assessment

Link to OCTEA salient database search: <https://r3web2.r03.epa.gov/Salients/oecej/index.cfm>

Baltimore-Washington Superconducting MAGLEV Project - On January 15, 2021, OCTEA received the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) for the Baltimore-Washington Superconducting MAGLEV Project (SCMAGLEV). SCMAGLEV is a proposed high-speed train system that will travel between Baltimore, MD and Washington, DC, along the Baltimore-Washington Parkway. The proposed alignments include both underground tunnel and elevated viaduct sections. The project will include large train maintenance locations that may impact extensive wetlands and forested areas, including areas of the Beltsville Agricultural Research Center and the Patuxent Research Refuge. The project may also impact numerous areas of potential environmental justice concerns. OCTEA is coordinating with other Region 3 divisions to develop comments regarding the DEIS. Comments are due on April 22, 2021. **(A. Welch, x2910)**

All States EJ Conference Call for the Month of January – PADEP's EJ Team provided an overview of their EJ Training efforts that have led to the training of over 1500 PADEP staff thus far. The training was developed from a joint effort between PADEP OCTEA and OEJ to assist PADEP in building capacity and developing a revised EJ strategy. Nearly 100 participants from EPA Regions 1-5 and their respective states participated in the call which provided an overview of the training, examples of its content, perspective of managers and participants, and feedback received. The participants showed great interest and asked numerous questions of PADEP regarding the "How to" of the training. Based upon the networking that occurred and the types of fielded questions, it is anticipated that both the Regions and PADEP will see increased interest from others seeking to engage in EJ Training activities. **(R. Harris, x2988)**

Air & Radiation Division

PARTNERSHIP PROGRAMS & GRANTS BRANCH

OECA Clarifies Enforcement Priority for Non-Compliant Residential Wood Heaters

On January 19, EPA's Office of Enforcement and Compliance Assurance (OECA) clarified via internal memorandum that the previous low enforcement priority for continued sales of "Step 1"-compliant residential wood heating devices is no longer in effect. In May 2020, in response to industry concerns about the impacts of COVID-19 on their ability to 'sell through' their existing stock of Step 1 wood stoves, EPA proposed to authorize the sale of Step 1 stoves through November 30, 2020, and stated that EPA would consider sales of Step 1 stoves as a low enforcement priority for the duration of the rulemaking process. OECA's recent clarification indicates that – with the passing of the November 30, 2020 date - the previous low enforcement priority consideration is no longer in effect and affirms that all residential wood heating devices offered for commercial sale must comply with the Step 2 emissions requirements of the 2015 NSPS. Step 2 stoves meet more stringent emissions limits on particulate matter (PM) compared to Step 1 devices. Region 3 Air and Radiation Division (ARD) staff work closely with the hearth and chimney industry through the Burnwise program and will communicate this clarification at upcoming outreach events. More information can be found at: <https://www.epa.gov/residential-wood-heaters/final-2020-new-source-performance-standards-residential-wood-heaters> **Contact:** Andrew Kreider, 215-814-3301

PERMITS BRANCH

Pennsylvania Receives Significant Public Comments on Proposed Plan Approval for Shell Petrochemical Facility

On October 3rd, 2020, the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (PADEP) noticed a proposed plan approval for the Shell Chemical Appalachia LLC (Shell) Shell Polymers Monaca Site. This facility is currently under construction and will manufacture plastics from natural gas upon completion. The plan approval is for proposed equipment additions, equipment changes (i.e., removed or downsized), and increased equipment capacities at the facility. The public comment period ended on November 2nd, 2020 and PADEP received substantial public comments from both individuals and environmental organizations, including the Environmental Integrity Project. On January 21, 2021, PADEP reached out to Region 3 Air and Radiation Division's (ARD) for assistance in clarifying the permitting process. Though there is not an official EPA review of the response to comments required, PADEP has agreed to share the response to comments document and final draft permit prior to issuance. ARD reviewed the plan approval during the public comment period and offered modeling comments. **Contact:** Paul Entwistle, 215-814-2343

Upcoming Decisions: N/A

Upcoming Calendar Events: N/A

Chesapeake Bay Program Office

General:

Management Board Preps for Key May Meeting – The Chesapeake Bay Program Management Board met on Thursday, January 21, to plan for a key biennial meeting in May involving strategies to meet *Chesapeake Bay Watershed Agreement* outcomes. The Management Board reviewed plans for a two-day Strategy Review System (SRS) Biennial Meeting on May 12 and 13, including the meeting agenda, purpose and outcomes, and

preparation for a discussion on outcome attainability. The Board was also provided with an overview of the 2019-2020 Bay Barometer. **Greg Barranco, 410-267-5778**

Bay Barometer Development Underway – The Chesapeake Bay Program partnership is developing the 2019-2020 Bay Barometer with a tentative release date of March 10. The Bay Barometer reflects progress on the variety of goals and outcomes the partnership agreed to work toward in the 2014 *Chesapeake Bay Watershed Agreement*. **Rachel Felver, 410-267-5740**

CBPO Calendar Items:

Jan. 25	Climate Resiliency Workgroup
Feb. 11	Management Board
Feb. 17	Climate Resiliency Workgroup
Feb. 19	Diversity Workgroup
Feb. 24	Conowingo WIP Steering Committee
Feb. 25	Citizens Advisory Committee

Regional Counsel Division

Consent Decree with American Zinc Recycling Lodged in District Court, Addressing Multimedia Violations at Palmerton, PA Facility.

Last week, DOJ lodged a federal-state Consent Decree in federal district court, on behalf of EPA and PaDEP, addressing alleged CWA, CAA, RCRA, and EPCRA violations at the Palmerton, PA facility of American Zinc Recycling, formerly known as Horsehead Corporation. This 100-plus year-old facility, located on the Aquashicola Creek, reclaims zinc from electric arc furnace (EAF) dust, which is a listed hazardous waste (K061) under RCRA. AZR estimates that it will spend at least \$4.3 million to complete required injunctive relief and bring its operations into compliance with the CWA, RCRA, CAA, and EPCRA. In addition to these compliance costs, the proposed Decree also requires AZR to pay a civil penalty of \$3.3 million, of which 50% will be paid to PADEP. As a result of settlement, it is estimated that more than 47,000,000 pounds of pollutants will be reduced over the duration of the Decree. In addition, the 1995 Consent Decree between Horsehead and the United States and PADEP, will be terminated concurrently with the entry of this proposed Decree, which is subject to a 30-day public comment period and final court approval. **Primary Contact: Joyce Howell, (215) 814-26244, Additional Contacts: Melissa Raak, (202) 564-7039, Rebecca Serfass, (215) 814-2047, Amelie Isin, (215) 814-2160, Lisa Trakis, (215) 814-5433, Michael Eller, (215) 814-5427**

Region 3 Reaches Agreement with National Aeronautics and Space Administration for the Performance of Response Actions at the Wallops Flight Facility in VA.

On January 12, 2021, EPA finalized an Administrative Agreement and Order on Consent (Consent Order) with the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) for the performance of response actions at the Wallops Flight Facility Formerly Used Defense Sites (FUDS), Accomack County, VA. The Consent Order is EPA's first Federal Facility "Superfund Alternative Approach" agreement and is entered into pursuant to EPA's authority under RCRA and CERCLA. Under the Consent Order, NASA will perform the several response actions at the FUDS areas of the Wallops Flight Facility with EPA oversight, including a Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study; Proposed Remedial Action Plans; Records of Decision; Remedial Designs/Remedial Actions; and Removal and Emergency Actions, if necessary, to address any identified imminent and substantial threat to human health or the environment. On November 27, 2020, EPA provided public notice of the proposed Consent Order, an opportunity for a public meeting, and a 31-day public comment period. All public comments received were considered before finalizing the agreement. VADEQ is a support agency for the NASA Wallops site, and all actions taken under the Consent Order will be coordinated with VADEQ. **Primary Contact: Manuel Ronquillo, (215) 814-2660, Additional Contact: Lorie Baker, (215) 814-3355**

CONFIDENTIAL - DC Circuit Vacates EPA's Alternative Clean Energy Rule; Probable Impact on Partial Plan Submitted by West Virginia. On January 19, 2021 the D.C. Circuit Court of Appeals vacated the Agency's ACE rule that required states to develop plans to regulate greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions at coal-fired power plants. While the Court considered various challenges to the ACE from 12 petitions, the vacatur of the rule was decided solely on EPA's claim that it was constrained to identify an emission reduction system consisting only of controls "that can be applied at and to a stationary source," rather than by, e.g., decreasing total GHG emissions by shifting electrical generation to lower emitting sources. The Court held that this was an "erroneous view of the law," and no such legal constraint existed. In a partially concurring, partially dissenting opinion, Judge Walker would have vacated the ACE rule by finding that EPA had no authority to regulate coal-fired power plants under the statutory section that EPA used as authority for the ACE rule (CAA Section 111). We anticipate receiving additional interpretation of the 185-page opinion from headquarters, including how the Region should handle a partial state ACE plan submitted to EPA by West Virginia on January 8, 2021. OGC has been the national lead for responding to this litigation. **Primary Contact: Neil Bigioni, (215) 814-2781, Additional Contact: Robert Stoltzfus, (215) 814-2695**

Grand Jury in Virginia Charges Distillery and its Owner with Violating Virginia State Water Control Law. On January 14, 2021, the Virginia Office of the Attorney General (VAOAG) obtained an indictment from a grand jury sitting in Shenandoah County, Va., charging, Filibuster Distillery LLC, Filibuster Barrels LLC, and distillery owner Siddharth Dilawri on 115 charges involving illegal dumping of industrial waste in violation of Virginia's water pollution control statute. This matter began as a federal investigation by the Washington Resident Office of CID after it received information, via the Blue Ridge Environmental Crimes Task Force, from the Shenandoah County Fire Marshal's Office about discharges into a stream near the distillery. After extensive investigation by CID and legal analysis by ORC, CID referred this matter to the VAOAG. CID and ORC worked closely with VAOAG lawyers and investigators in discussing the investigative findings, and the appropriateness of a state criminal prosecution. **Primary Contact: Morgan Rog, (215) 814-2150, Additional Contact: SA Billy Stull, (202) 566-0723**

Citizen Files Petition for Review of EPA-Issued Permit for UIC Well in PA, In Re Windfall Oil & Gas, EAB Appeal No. UIC 21-01. A citizen has filed a petition for review on January 12, 2021, before the Environmental Appeals Board, challenging EPA's reissuance of the Safe Drinking Water Act UIC permit for the Windfall Oil & Gas fracking facility in Brady Township, PA. The petition raises several factual and policy issues, many of which were resolved favorably to EPA in the prior 2014 appeal of the original UIC permit. EPA's response is due on February 11, 2021, but EPA will file a request for a 30-day extension of time for its response. Region 3 is consulting with OGC and OW in this proceeding. **Primary Contact: William Smith, (215) 814-2690**

ORC Provides CLE on Suspension and Debarment to Attorneys and CID agents in Regions 2, 3 and 5. On January 19, 2021, Martin Harrell, Associate Regional Counsel for Criminal Enforcement, and Lauren Lovett, Chief Suspension and Debarment Hearing Officer in the Office of Grants and Debarment, provided a 90-minute CLE to attorneys in Regions 2 and 3 and CID agents in Regions 3 and 5. Criminal enforcement attorneys in Region 5 also attended. The instructors covered several subjects, including the legal bases for suspension and debarment, mandatory and discretionary exclusion, and impacts in regional enforcement cases, especially parallel proceedings. Approximately 75 persons attended the virtual presentation which was recorded for future use. **Primary Contact: Martin Harrell, (215) 814-2638, Additional Contact: Lauren Lovett, (202) 564-2560**

Region 3 Issues Notice of Potential CWA NPDES Permit Violations and Opportunity to Confer (NOPVOC) to the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts, Washington, DC. On January 21, 2021, Region 3 issued a NOPVOC to the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts, Washington, DC, (the Permittee and the Facility). The NOPVOC alleges noncompliance with the facility's NPDES permit, which regulates non-contact cooling water discharges to the Potomac River. The allegations described in the NOPVOC are based upon EPA's review of the facility's discharge monitoring report data and a District of Columbia Department of Energy and Environment (DOEE) inspection report. The allegations of violation

include: a) failure to comply with temperature and pH limitations; b) failure to submit or timely submit some or all of the required effluent and influent monitoring data; and c) failure to properly operate and maintain all systems of treatment and control at the Facility, including providing adequate training of staff and adequate funding. Region 3 has coordinated with the DC DOEE on this matter and DC DOEE representatives received a copy of the NOPVOC letter. The regulated industrial discharges at issue affect the water quality of the Potomac River. **Primary Contact: Kathleen Root, (215) 814-2684, Additional Contacts: Ingrid Hopkins, (215) 814-5437**

Upcoming Meetings: None

Upcoming Decisions: None

Laboratory Services & Applied Science Division

<http://r3web2.r03.epa.gov/Salients/eaid/index.cfm>

Salients:

Region 3 Laboratory Receives 100% on Polyfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS) Performance Testing Sample

- The Region 3 Laboratory achieved 100% acceptable data in a Quick Performance Testing (PT) study for Polyfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS). This achievement is a demonstration of the superior quality of the laboratory in the evaluation of Polyfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS) in drinking water and is a requirement for the laboratory's accreditation under ISO-17025 and TNI. **(Contact: Pepa Sassin 410-305-3021 or Dorina Alliu (410) 305-2601)**

Region 3 Laboratory Receives a certificate of recognition on Inorganics, Mercury, Metals, MicrobE™

(Coliforms), Nitrite, and Pesticides Performance Testing Sample - The Region 3 Laboratory achieved a certificate of recognition for achieving acceptable evaluation in the WS-293 PT study for Drinking Water Inorganics, Mercury, Metals, MicrobE™ (Coliforms), Nitrite, and Pesticides. This achievement is a demonstration of the excellent quality of the laboratory in the evaluation of these parameters in drinking water and is a requirement for the laboratory's accreditation under ISO-17025 and TNI **(Contact: Pepa Sassin 410-305-3021 or Dorina Alliu (410) 305-2601)**

Events:

1/26	LSASD All-Hands Meeting
1/27-28	Regional Science Council Retreat (D. Campbell, R. Poeske, K. Hensley, T. Lutte, N. O'Neal, Y. Chai)
4/27-29	EPA Quality Assurance Community Virtual Meeting (K. Long)
April	National Water Monitoring Conference (FSB presenting)

Superfund & Emergency Management Division (SEMD) Weekly Report

Link to SEMD salient database search: <http://r3web2.r03.epa.gov/hscd//index.cfm>

View: [Calendar of Activities](#)

Centre County Kepone Superfund Site Remedy Optimization, State College, PA – On January 13, 2021, EPA granted conditional approval of a Groundwater Remedy Optimization Work Plan for the Site. The primary goals of the evaluation are to determine whether pumping is still required to maintain compliance with Remedial Action Objectives, and to identify opportunities for potential remedy optimization. Under the evaluation, operation of the extraction system will be ceased for up to one year in order to assess the nature and stability of groundwater conditions under static (i.e., no pumping) conditions. Groundwater elevations and quality will be monitored during this time and a contingency plan is in place if groundwater quality is adversely

affected by the shutdown. The first step in the Work Plan is conducting a pre-shutdown evaluation during the first quarter of 2021. **(F. Klanchar, x3218)**

Preparedness & Response Branch (PRB) 2021 Presidential Inauguration National Special Security Event (NSSE) - PRB deployed personnel to support the 2021 Presidential Inauguration between January 19th and 21st. Personnel were ready to respond from Ft. Meade, MD; Boothwyn, PA; and, other locations. PRB conducted extensive coordination with federal and local response agencies alike including the FBI, FEMA, USSS, DDOEE and DCHSEMA among others. PRB engaged several other EPA organizations (e.g., Environmental Response Team and Consequence Management Assistance Division and others) to assist and to be ready with their resources as well. This effort was intended to enhance overall preparedness to respond in the event EPA's environmental expertise was needed. Personnel were also virtually deployed to support and coordinate with FEMA pursuant to a Mission Assignment. **(Towle, 3272)**

Events: N/A

Water Division

<https://r3web2.r03.epa.gov/Salients/wpd/index.cfm>

The Underground Injection Control (UIC) Program Issues Two Draft Permits to Pocahontas Gas and Roulette Oil & Gas – On December 31, 2020, the UIC Program reissued a draft permit to Pocahontas Gas of Pounding Mill, Virginia. This Class II-D permit is a reissuance of a permit that expired on August 27, 2020. The permit will allow for the subsurface disposal of fluids produced in association with Pocahontas oil and gas operations. Should a final permit be issued, Pocahontas may operate the injection well for a 10-year period. A draft permit was also issued to Roulette Oil & Gas of Shinglehouse, Pennsylvania. Roulette intends on converting one (1) existing production well into a Class II-D injection well which will allow for the subsurface disposal of fluids produced in association with Roulette oil and gas operations. Should a final permit be issued, Roulette may operate the injection well for a 10-year period. Each permit has a 32-day public notice period in which citizens can comment on the permits or request a hearing. The public notice period will end on February 1, 2021. The public notices, draft permits, and supporting documentation can be viewed [here](#). **(Kevin Rowsey, 215-814-5463)**

EPA Provides Draft Real Time Permit Review Documents for Region 3 States – On January 21 and 22, 2021, the Clean Water Branch Chief provided draft Real Time Permit Review documents to the state NPDES Permit Managers. The Real Time reviews provide an overview of the process by which the states and EPA work together for EPA review, comment, acceptance, and objection to permits drafted and issued by the state permitting authorities. The draft document for each state is based on a national template that has been expanded to serve as a standard operating plan/guide that includes references, documents on the process that EPA and the state will use to review draft permits, and facts sheets submitted for informal and formal review. **(Michelle Price- Fay 215-814-3397)**

UPCOMING MEETINGS:

Scheduling winter and spring Water Directors meetings:

In place of our annual in-person Water Directors meeting, last year WD held several 2-3-hour sessions on specific issues with state Water Directors, including participation from ORC, LSASD and ECAD. The format worked well and will be followed up with similar sessions in the winter and spring. The first set of sessions are tentatively slated to focus on drinking water topics.

January 25, 2021: CWSRF Opportunities in MD to Address Poultry Manure Surpluses (MD Department of Agriculture, MDE, poultry integrators, and farmers)
Kelly Shenk 410-267-5728

January 26, 2021: PADEP Phase III WIP State Team Virtual Check-in Meeting
(with various PA agencies and organizations)
Suzanne Trevena 215-814-5701

January 26, 2021: Delmarva Land & Litter Collaborative Steering Committee Meeting
Kelly Shenk 410-267-5728

January 28, 2021: R3 Ag Workgroup Meeting to discuss 2020 Ag Highlights and 2021 Initiatives
Kelly Shenk 410-267-5728

UPCOMING DECISIONS: None

******End of Salients*